



A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

With all five City Councilmembers now seated, we are re-launching Monte Sereno’s newsletter in order to keep City residents more up-to-date. Our goal with the newsletter is to provide you with an update on activities going on in the City, have it serve as a community resource, and increase transparency and stimulate conversations about important issues that affect our community.

In 2019, the City Council formed several ad-hoc committees to address some of our most pressing matters. One is devoted to wildfire and emergency preparedness to help assist with preparing our homes and neighborhoods to be more resilient in the event of a natural disaster; another

is to study new State legislation that potentially applies a one-size-fits-all approach to zoning and could adversely impact our City and its ability to regulate development locally; and finally one working on a social media policy to address how City Councilmembers can communicate through social media with our citizens. In April, the City Council sent a protest letter regarding recent water rate increases. Here’s the good news! The CA Public Utilities Commission suspended the surcharge requested through San Jose Water Company’s Advice Letter 523.

Our City staff has been busy with issuing permits for primary and accessory dwelling units (see related article). Staff continues to update our municipal code regarding subdivisions and zoning, streamlining the City’s rules and regulations and bringing them more up-to-date. The City Council’s Regulations and Guidelines for the Conduct of Public

Meetings have been updated with additional proposed changes coming. The City completed the second year of major street resurfacing as part of its five-year Pavement Management Program.

We want you, our citizens, to stay actively involved with the City Council, City staff, and your neighbors. Together, we can make effective progress towards addressing important issues such as new State legislation that could change the unique character of our City, increasing our effectiveness to respond in the event of a natural disaster, and building stronger neighborhoods through increased collaboration and open conversations. We want to hear from you, be our eyes and ears, participate in civic life, and reach out to your neighbors. Let us work together towards the betterment of Monte Sereno!

—Rowena Turner

*** Expanded Sunday Hours *
at Saratoga Library!**

SARATOGA LIBRARY...A COOL PLACE TO BE THIS SUMMER!

Looking for things to do this summer? Places to go? Ways to meet people, stimulate your brain and minimize your children’s summer brain drain? Look to the Saratoga Library and its many programs, presentations, activities, clubs, and resources. There is so much more than just books to check out at our Library these days! Visit the Library website at

<https://www.scll.org/Locations/Saratoga>

for more information. You are sure to find something interesting for everyone in your family.



Welcome to the City of Monte Sereno’s newsletter aimed at keeping the residents of the City better informed and aware of what’s going on in the City.

Have questions, concerns, or kudos for the City? Have ideas on topics you would like to see appear in the newsletter? Send us your thoughts by email at

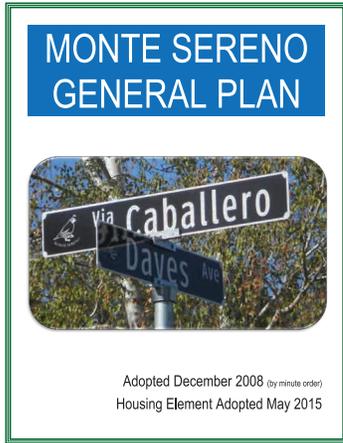
cityhall@cityofmontesereno.org

WHAT’S INSIDE

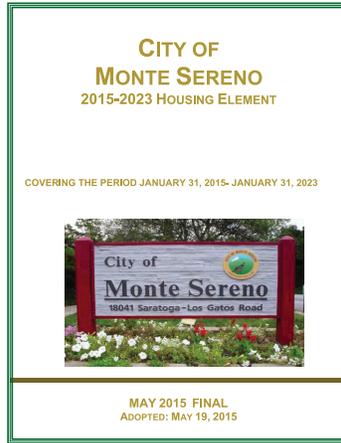
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www.cityofmontesereno.org

STATE HOUSING REQUIREMENTS: THE CITY'S ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES



General Plan



Housing Element

The lack of housing in general, and affordable housing in particular, is one of the most significant problems faced by California today. Decades ago the state decided that the issue was of statewide importance and began to implement laws that put requirements on local governments to show that they could accommodate a certain amount of new housing over a period of time. It is not a mandate to produce housing units, just a requirement that through zoning and an inventory of vacant/underutilized land a local government can demonstrate that it can accommodate the amount identified by the state.

All local governments in California are required to have a general plan – a long-term blueprint for the community's vision of future growth. The state requires that general plans cover specific topics, known as elements. The required elements are: land use, circulation, housing, conservation, open space, noise, safety, environmental justice, and air quality. Of all of the elements the housing element has the most requirements attached to it and provisions in the housing element are more specific and directive than other elements, and contain detailed guidance and reviews. State

law also provides the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) with unique authority over the housing element.

The City's current Housing Element is in full compliance with HCD's requirements and covers the period 2015-2023. Annually, the City must submit a report that indicates the City's progress in implementing its Housing Element (to view the most recent report, see the City Council meeting agenda for March 19, 2019; item #9). To date the City is making very good progress with meeting its requirements. Specifically, the City is meeting its low-income housing requirements through the construction of accessory dwelling units (aka granny flats, in-law units, backyard cottages, and secondary units). The City has met its multi-family housing requirements for the period through the approval of the residential development project at the site of the former Jack Rose Libation House (formerly La Hacienda Inn). The project was approved with six single-family attached homes (duets), nine single-family attached townhomes, and 21 single-family detached homes.

During this session of the State Legislature a number of bills have been introduced with the stated intent of increasing housing production at all levels of affordability, preserving existing affordable housing, and protecting vulnerable populations from housing instability and displacement. One of the bills, SB 50, which is sponsored by Senator Wiener, is designed to allow more housing development near job centers and public transportation, including in certain cases by preempting local zoning authority. This bill in particular could have a direct impact on the City, including taking away some of the City's land use control authority in some instances. In April, the City Council created an ad-hoc committee to analyze these bills and work with the City Attorney to craft responses as necessary from the City for the entire City Council's consideration. With this process the City Council can provide a timely response to the State Legislature on legislation that could impact the City and its residents.

KEEP KIDS ALIVE DRIVE 25®

Get your free stickers at City Hall and be a part of the effort! KEEP KIDS ALIVE DRIVE 25® educates motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists to practice behaviors that keep us all safe on and along roadways. Come by City Hall to get your free stickers to place on your trash, recycling, and yard waste bins to help promote safety on our streets!



YOUTH COMMISSION UPDATE

The outgoing Monte Sereno Youth Commission, appointed by the City Council May 2018, did a great job this past year with accomplishing its goals and making a difference. Each year the number of applicants seeking a position on the Commission has increased. The group included: Manit Sripadam, Chairperson; Alex Nickel, Co-Chairperson; Ariana Yamouti, Co-Chairperson and Shower Kit Drive Chairperson; Paige Craig, Secretary; Commissioners: Koosha Azim, McCoy Buchsteiner, Caitlin Calhoun, Jessica Guardino, Savannah Lin, Jesse Lu, Ajay Madala, Katherine Mekechuk, Kavya Narayan, Emily Nedom, and Arushi Saxena.

The Commission started off their year hosting an ice cream sundae bar at the annual Monte Sereno Picnic in the Park which, as usual, was a fan favorite. During the fall, in partnership with Moms Against Poverty (MAP), the Commission ran a very successful hygiene drive – “Give the Gift of a Fresh Start.” From the residents’ generous donations the Commissioners were able to collect enough hygiene products to assemble 68 “shower kits” containing basic everyday hygiene products, purchase a pantry cabinet, and provide extra products to stock the pantry. The kits, products, and cabinet were delivered mid-December to a class of economically disadvantaged 5th graders who attend a San Jose area elementary school.



Outgoing Youth Commission members

Commissioners also traveled to Sacramento with Assembly Member Evan Low and staff to get a behind the scenes tour of our State Capital and to hear Assembly Member Low speak. The first weekend in December, the Commission participated in the annual Los Gatos Children’s Christmas/Holidays Parade. They wore red Monte Sereno jackets and sported new banners.

In January, a group of the Commissioners lent a harvesting hand to the Village Harvest Program and picked fruit from backyards in West San Jose. The fresh produce is used to supply food banks and help people in need in our community. The Commission had a very busy year! Stay tuned for how you and the newly appointed Commission can make a difference in the coming year.

UPDATED TREE REMOVAL REGULATIONS

On December 18, 2018, the City Council adopted an ordinance modifying the City’s tree removal regulations to make it easier for property owners to remove dead and undesirable trees, as well as increasing the penalty for removing a tree without a permit to \$1,000. These regulations went into effect on **January 18, 2019**. Below is a summary of the new regulations:

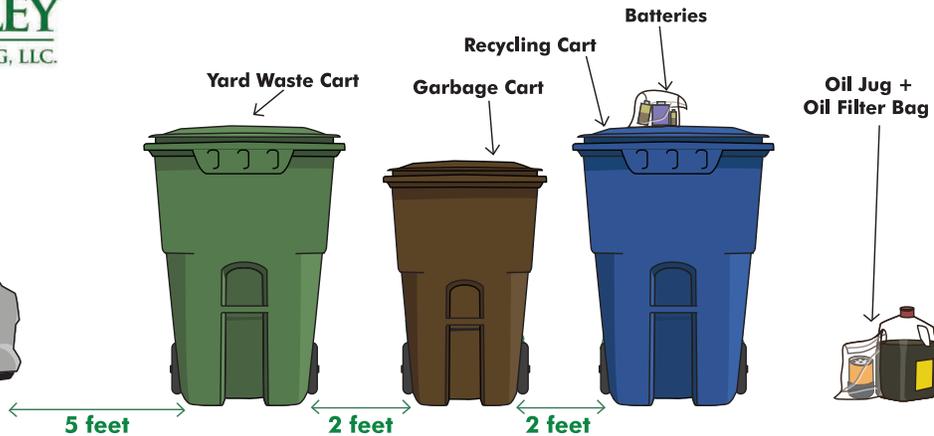
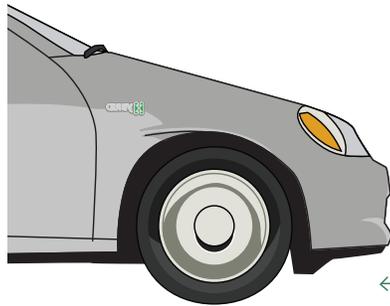
You need a Tree Removal Permit under the following circumstances	Approval Body	Fee
Whenever you want to remove any live tree that meets the following size thresholds: Oak or Redwood Tree – 20” or greater in circumference Any other tree – 25” or greater in circumference	Site & Architectural Commission	\$100
If the tree meets the above size requirements but is dead or is one of the following unsuitable trees: Blue or Red Gum Eucalyptus, Black Acacia, Tulip Tree, Tree of Heaven, Palm (any type), Privet, Monterey Pine, Fruit Trees	City Planner	\$0

The City Council eliminated the threshold of three trees of any size within a year as a trigger for a tree removal permit. A property owner can remove as many trees as they like without having to get a Tree Removal Permit as long as the trees are below the 20 and 25 inch circumference measurement. It is important when getting a Tree Removal Permit for a dead or undesirable tree to be able to present sufficient evidence of said condition should the City need additional information. The City Planner will do their best to verify the condition but may request additional information from a certified arborist.

Go to the following link for the Tree Removal Permit application:
<https://ca-montesereno.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/658/Tree-Removal-Application>

RESIDENTIAL HOW-TO GUIDE

for **Garbage**, **Recyclables** and **Green Waste**



GARBAGE PLACEMENT

Please remember that garbage, recycling, and yard waste bins can only be set out at midnight the day before pickup and must be brought back in by the day after pickup. Example: If your pick-up day is on Thursday, you can set your bins out on Wednesday and bring them back in by noon on Friday.

UPDATE: PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AND STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Last year the City embarked on a multi-year, City-wide Pavement Management Program to improve the overall condition of the City's streets. The first phase of this five-year effort began spring 2018. The City has budgeted funds to raise the condition of the City's roadway pavement from "fair" to "good."

The overall Pavement Condition Index (PCI) for the 12.43 mile system of Monte Sereno streets was rated as "fair" (63/100) in a 2017 technical analysis. To improve the overall rating to "optimum" (80+/100) would require a five-year investment of over \$5.4 million. In 2017 the City Council approved a five-year financing plan to raise the condition of its street system to "good" (70+/100) by 2022, requiring an investment of approximately \$2.22 million over the five-year period. To reduce further rapid deterioration, nearly 60% of the funds (\$1.3 million) have been expended in the first two years.

The work last summer consisted of various forms of pavement maintenance treatments on 16 different streets in close proximity to each other in the Daves and La Rinconada neighborhoods. The work this spring on 18 different streets was more dispersed throughout the City. The streets were selected based upon the analysis contained in the Pavement Management Budget Options Report. The report recommended a "best-first" philosophy for determining which streets should be worked on and when. This approach is more cost-effective in the long run because it is better to treat streets with lower-cost, preventative maintenance treatments before the street condition deteriorates to



Recent work on Blanchard Drive

a state where it requires more costly rehabilitation and reconstruction treatments.

The City has also embarked on another program that targets both improving pavement condition and reducing the detrimental effects of stormwater runoff and deterioration at the edge of the street due to the lack of curb and gutter. Last year the City completed a pilot project on Blanchard Drive that added curb and gutter to the entire length of the street in addition to resurfacing it. This year the City chose three streets, Palos Verdes Drive, Equestrian Way, and Via Vaquero, for a similar project. The City Council approved treating additional streets next year as part of the upcoming fiscal year budget.

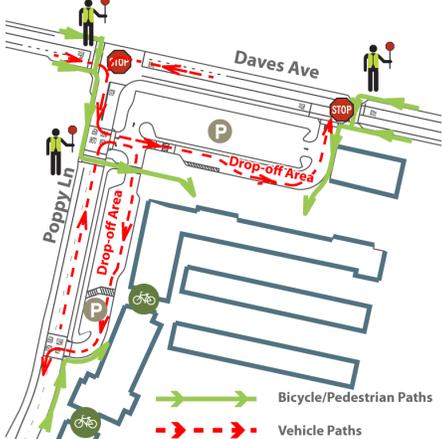
In the interest of keeping the community and the residents directly affected as informed as possible a webpage has been created as a resource for keeping up-to-date on what is going on. The City encourages you to check there regularly to stay abreast of the when, where, and what associated with each year's pavement management program.

Daves Avenue Elementary School

WALK & ROLL TO SCHOOL SUGGESTED ROUTES

-  Walk 'n Roll Suggested School Route
-  Traffic Signal
-  Marked Crosswalk
-  All-Way Stop
-  Parking
-  Crossing Guard
-  Bike Parking

Suggested On-Campus Traffic Circulation



Designated Student Drop Off/Pick Up areas help to consolidate and organize the school circulation patterns. This can increase safety for students, as it minimizes the number of students walking through drive lanes and the parking lot. Parents are responsible for choosing the most appropriate option based on their knowledge of the conditions on the different routes and the experience level of their child.

For more Safe Routes to School information, please visit:
www.LosGatosCa.gov/SafeRoutes or
 email SafeRoutes@LosGatos.gov



DAVES AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PEDESTRIAN/ BICYCLE/VEHICULAR SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

The City and the school district have been busy over the last two years making improvements for the purpose of increasing safety for those who bike, walk, and drive to/from and around Daves Avenue Elementary School. Through ongoing discussions with the City’s Better Streets Commission, school teachers, parents, and staff, the Los Gatos Union School District staff, and the surrounding neighborhood, staff is developing a comprehensive Daves Avenue School Neighborhood Project for engineering design in the coming year. This project will build upon the work to-date and will likely include the addition of sidewalks, changes in circulation on school property, improved crosswalks, enhanced signage, and improvements to increase bicycle safety. The City will be seeking grant funds to cover most of the cost of this project. Stay tuned for more details.

HACIENDA PROPERTY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT UPDATE (MONTALVO OAKS)

The City of Monte Sereno and the owner of the Hacienda Inn/Jack Rose site, entered into a Settlement and Processing Agreement in February 2018 to resolve a dispute related to the City's compliance with State Housing Element law. As a part of this Agreement, the City committed to processing a number of applications related to the proposed development of the Hacienda Inn/Jack Rose site located at 18840 Saratoga-Los Gatos Road. On June 12, 2018 and June 19, 2018, the City Council took action on all of the applications approving the project as described below. As of December 11, 2018, the property officially became part of the incorporated limits of the City of Monte Sereno. To the right is a description of the approved project.

Construction of the project is expected to begin this summer.

A total of 36 dwelling units will be constructed on 4.45 gross acres

21 Single-family detached dwelling units

4 Duplexes (8 dwelling units)

2 Townhome buildings (7 dwelling units)

A single-loop private road will serve the project with frontage improvements along Highway 9 inclusive of a pedestrian walkway.

The Oak woodland at the southern end of the property will be preserved as permanent open space.



ANY MONTE SERENO SENIORS IN NEED OF TRANSPORTATION?

The City of Monte Sereno has partnered with four other cities (Campbell, Cupertino, Los Gatos, and Saratoga) along with the County of Santa Clara to provide the senior citizens of these cities with reduced-cost transportation (based on income) from their homes to places within these cities, the Sunnyvale Caltrain station, as well as medical facilities in adjacent cities in the West Valley. The program launched October 2017 and is coordinated by Santa Clara County, Saratoga's Senior Coordinating Council, and West Valley Community Services (look for more information on the City's website).



NEW ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION - CITY HALL

The City Council approved the installation of an electric vehicle charging station as part of the Fiscal Year 2018-19 Capital Budget. The station is up and running and ready for public use. This is the only publicly accessible station in the City and provides a way for those driving electric or plug-in hybrid vehicles a way to charge up when visiting City Hall. The station represents an effort to help promote the use of electric vehicles in furtherance of the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Electric Vehicle Charging Station located at City Hall



COME VISIT MONTE SERENO'S LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

Thanks to the 2018- 2019 Youth Commission, Monte Sereno City Hall now has a Little Free Library. Stroll on down to City Hall one of these days or summer evenings and see the literary offerings. Little Free Libraries are a global phenomenon. The small free book exchanges number more than 75,000 around the world in 85 countries – from Iceland to Tasmania to Pakistan. Now, the new Little Free Library at 18041 Saratoga-Los Gatos Road, Monte Sereno will join the movement to share books, bring people together, and create communities of readers.

Monte Sereno's Little Free Library located at City Hall





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City of Monte Sereno
18041 Saratoga - Los Gatos Rd
Monte Sereno, CA 95030



SAVE THE DATE AUGUST 24TH CITY PICNIC

Monte Sereno residents mark your calendars for the Annual Monte Sereno Picnic in the Park - Vasona Lake County Park, Saturday, August 24th. RSVP required. Watch your mailbox mid-July for your postcard invitation containing all the details.



City Council

GET INVOLVED AT CITY HALL

The City welcomes residents to participate in city government. The City has three commissions comprised of local residents. They are the Site & Architectural Commission, the Better Streets Commission, and the Youth Commission (see the City's website for more info on each). Recruitments for the Site & Architectural Commission and the Better Streets Commission begin in October and for the Youth Commission in April. The City encourages you to consider giving back to your community by serving on a commission.

WHO TO CALL AT CITY HALL

City Council

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rturner@cityofmontesereno.org

MAYOR PRO TEMPORE LIZ LAWLER..... (408) 402-3048
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SHAWN LEUTHOLD(408) 924-0132
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JESSICA KAHN, CITY ENGINEER
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SUE L'HEUREUX, FINANCE OFFICER
sue@cityofmontesereno.org

ROB QUEIROLO, CHIEF BUILDING OFFICIAL
rob@cityofmontesereno.org

Service Providers

POLICE911
Los Gatos - Monte Sereno Police Department
Business/Non-Emergency.....(408) 354-5257
After 5 pm(408) 354-8600

FIRE
Santa Clara County Fire Department911
Business/Non-Emergency.....(408) 378-4010

ANIMAL CONTROL/SHELTER
Silicon Valley Animal Control(408) 764-0344

GARBAGE & RECYCLING
West Valley Collection & Recycling.....(408) 283-9250

ELECTRICITY/GAS
Silicon Valley Clean Energy..... (844) 474-7823
Pacific Gas & Electric.....(800) 743-5000

ROAD OBSTRUCTIONS/ISSUES
City Streets.....(408) 354-7635
After Hours Emergency(408) 354-8600
Highway 9 (Caltrans).....(510) 286-4444

SEWER
West Valley Sanitation(408) 378-2407
After Hours Emergency(408) 299-2507

WATER
San Jose Water Company.....(408) 279-7900